



SSPH+

SWISS SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



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To our PhD students

Zurich, 17 March 2020

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Be a strong public health leader at times of COVID-19

Dear PhD students,

Please demonstrate public health leadership at its very best in these difficult days. It is essential that everybody in our society sticks to the "social distancing" rule (at least 2 meters) at all times, everywhere, both at work and privately. It is well known that many young people interpret this requirement rather widely. Many examples proof the terrible consequences this has for our health care system. Attached you see an interesting article from Italy with the strong confirmation of the very substantial impact of rigorous versus delayed / relaxed "social distancing".

No health care system in the world can accommodate what happened in Bergamo (see Graph). Let's promote the Lodi example (or Wuhan et al)! New data indicate a stronger spread than originally thought: 6 out of 7 cases are "unidentified cases" (with mild diseases). This also means: 80% of all cases get infected from "unidentified cases" (see [paper](#)).

Your voice and action as doctoral students can make a difference! Stand up wherever you see inadequate "coffee breaks", "study meetings" and other get-togethers. Great thanks!

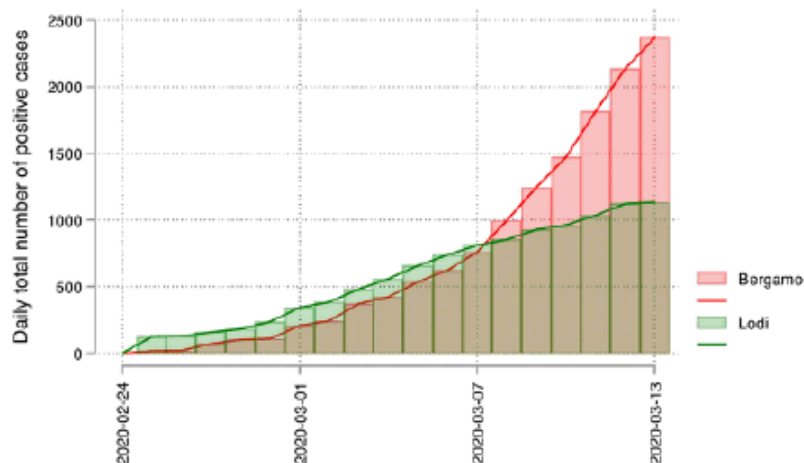


Figure S3. Number of cases in the Province of Bergamo (red) and Lodi (green) as of March 13, 2020

On behalf of SSPH+ and all PhD Program coordinators,
Ann

PS: as of today, the New York Times gives free access to all COVID-19 articles